

## 1 CLAIMS

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3 1. A method of controlling a player station adapted to display gaming results associated with  
4 a game ticket, the method including the steps of:

5 (a) detecting whether a game ticket inserted at the player station includes a cover; and

6 (b) disabling the player station from displaying gaming results associated with the  
7 game ticket in the event that the step of detecting whether the game ticket includes  
8 the cover indicates that the cover is present on the game ticket.

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10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of detecting whether the game ticket includes the  
11 cover includes producing a cover sensor output.

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13 3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the step of detecting whether the game ticket includes the  
14 cover includes determining an orientation of the game ticket in the player station, and  
15 further including the step of producing a ticket misorientation notification in the event the  
16 step of determining the orientation of the game ticket in the player station indicates that  
17 the game ticket has not been inserted properly.

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19  
20 4. The method of Claim 3 further including the step of enabling the player station to display  
21 gaming results associated with the game ticket in the event that the step of detecting

1 whether the game ticket includes the cover indicates that the cover is absent and the step  
2 of determining the orientation of the game ticket in the player station indicates that the  
3 game ticket has been inserted properly.

4  
5 5. The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of determining the orientation of the game ticket  
6 in the player station includes producing an orientation sensor output.

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8 6. The method of Claim 2 wherein the cover sensor is an optical sensor.

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10 7. The method of Claim 2 wherein the cover sensor is a magnetic sensor.

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12 8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of detecting whether the game ticket includes the  
13 cover includes the step of attempting to detect a feature located on the cover.

14  
15 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of detecting whether the game ticket includes the  
16 cover includes the step of attempting to detect a feature located on a substrate of the game  
17 ticket.

18  
19 10. An apparatus for controlling the operation of a gaming system player station for  
20 displaying gaming results associated with a game ticket, the apparatus including:

21 (a) a cover sensor associated with a game ticket reader on the player station, the cover

1 sensor producing a cover sensor output; and

- 2 (b) a processor coupled to the cover sensor for disabling the player station from  
3 displaying gaming results associated with the game ticket when the cover sensor  
4 output indicates the presence of the cover on the game ticket.

5  
6 11. The apparatus of Claim 10 further including an orientation sensor coupled to the  
7 processor, the orientation sensor being operable to produce an orientation output  
8 indicative of an orientation of the game ticket in the game ticket reader.

9  
10 12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein the processor enables the player station to display  
11 gaming results when the cover sensor output indicates an absence of the cover and when  
12 the orientation output indicates that the game ticket has been inserted properly in the  
13 game ticket receiver.

14  
15 13. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the cover sensor is an optical sensor.

16  
17 14. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the cover sensor is a magnetic sensor.

18  
19 15. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the cover sensor is operable for detecting a feature  
20 located on the cover.

1 16. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the cover sensor is operable for detecting a feature  
2 located on a substrate of the game ticket.

3  
4 17. A program product for use in controlling a player station adapted to display gaming  
5 results associated with a game ticket, the program product being stored on a computer  
6 readable medium and including:

7 (a) cover sensor reading code for reading a cover sensor output from a cover sensor  
8 associated with a game ticket receiver on the player station; and

9 (b) player station control code for disabling the player station from displaying the  
10 results associated with the game ticket when the cover sensor output indicates that  
11 the cover is present on the game ticket.

12  
13 18. The program product of Claim 17 further including orientation sensor reading code for  
14 reading an orientation sensor output from an orientation sensor associated with the game  
15 ticket receiver.

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17 19. The program product of Claim 18 wherein the player station control code is operable for  
18 enabling the player station to display the results associated with the game ticket when the  
19 cover sensor output indicates an absence of the cover and when the orientation sensor  
20 output indicates that the game ticket has been inserted properly in the game ticket  
21 receiver.

1     20.     The program product of Claim 17 wherein the cover sensor output comprises a signal  
2             residing at either a first signal level or a second signal level.

3  
4     21.     The program product of Claim 17 wherein the orientation sensor output comprises a  
5             signal residing at either a first signal level or a second signal level.

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7     22.     The program product of Claim 17 further including orientation sensor processing code for  
8             deriving the orientation sensor output from a set of data read from the game ticket.